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SUBJECT: KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON THE FARC

REF: STATE 77205

¶1. Deputy PolCouns met with the Foreign Ministry's Chief of the Department of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela, Landy Esquivel, 7/29, to stress the importance the U.S. placed on keeping up pressure on the FARC in the wake of the recent rescue of the hostages in Colombia. Esquivel drew attention to the GOM press release applauding the rescue and calling on the FARC to release all remaining hostages. She also noted that Mexican President Calderon would be traveling to Bogota July 31 - August 1 to attend a Forum on Illicit Drugs and Security in the Caribbean, Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico where she expected Calderon would meet privately with Colombian President Uribe.

¶2. Esquivel characterized Mexican-Colombian relations as very good with increasing cooperation taking place particularly in connection to efforts to combat organized crime. By contrast, despite efforts to put a better public face on Mexico's relations with Venezuela, Calderon had not yet visited Venezuela in the course of his first year and a half in office and had no present plans to do so. Venezuela's Ambassador to Mexico departed in early July when he was named Venezuela's Ambassador to the OAS and has yet to be replaced.

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